

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 939

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Congressman William L. "Bill" Jenkins for his meritorious service to the citizens of Northeast Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to our colleague, Congressman William L. "Bill" Jenkins of Rogersville, who has served the good people of the First Congressional District with the utmost probity, industry, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, elected to represent the First Congressional District of Tennessee, William L. "Bill" Jenkins was sworn in as a member of the United States House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Bill Jenkins has served in the 105th – 109th Congresses, during which time he has been both efficient and productive, and his record of public service should be emulated by all those who seek public office; and

WHEREAS, although he has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in Congress, Mr. Jenkins has neither sought nor cultivated a national reputation; instead he has concentrated on being "the people's congressman," and this he has done well, as he is universally admired and respected by his colleagues and constituents; and

WHEREAS, Representative John Duncan from Knoxville said of Congressman Jenkins, "He has more common sense than anybody."; and

WHEREAS, during his stellar, five-term tenure in the U.S. Congress, Bill Jenkins has served as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary; a member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution; a member of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property; a member of the House Committee on Agriculture; a member of the Subcommittee on

General Farm Commodities and Risk Management; and a member and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs; and

WHEREAS, prior to his exemplary tenure in the United States House of Representatives, Bill Jenkins was an outstanding member of this General Assembly, serving as a State Representative for Hawkins, Hancock, and Grainger counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Jenkins served as Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, making him the only Republican to hold the Speakers' office since 1883; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Jenkins graduated with a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

WHEREAS, a seventh generation Tennessean, Bill Jenkins has owned and operated his family's beef cattle and burley tobacco farm in Rogersville, Tennessee, for many years; and

WHEREAS, an attorney, Bill Jenkins served with acumen and alacrity as a Circuit Court Judge for Tennessee's Third Judicial District, in which position he earned the respect of the community for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 1996, Judge Jenkins resigned his judicial post to enter the First District Congressional race; and

WHEREAS, a strong advocate for economic development and natural resource conservation, Bill Jenkins is the former Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Conservation, and he served as a policy advisor on energy and legislative issues to former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, President Richard Nixon appointed Congressman Jenkins to serve as one of the three members of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Board of Directors, a testament to his expertise and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, he has served as a director of Home Federal Savings and Loan of Upper East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bill Jenkins served active duty as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Military Police Corps, fighting to protect the freedoms and principles we all hold dear; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Bill Jenkins is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Rogersville, which he has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, donating his time and many talents to numerous noteworthy organizations, Congressman Jenkins is a member of the Hawkins County Farm Bureau, the American Legion, the Overton Masonic Lodge #5, the Tennessee Conservation League, and the Tennessee Bar Association; he is past Chairman of the Tennessee Heart Association, past District Chairman of the Cancer Crusade, and past Chairman of the Hawkins County Community Chest; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Bill Jenkins is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Kathryn, and their marriage has been blessed with four children and eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Bill Jenkins epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, because he has contributed in a meaningful way to the improvement of the democratic process, and because he has served Tennessee for so long and so faithfully, it is right and proper that we should recognize Congressman Bill Jenkins; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Congressman William L. "Bill" Jenkins for his meritorious service to the good people of the First Congressional District and Northeast Tennessee, commend his advocacy and representation of his constituents as an astute and active member of the United States House of Representatives, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.